

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,483,656 to Oprescu et al. (hereinafter “Oprescu”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,200,708 to Morris Jr. Et al. (“Morris”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,674 to Saito et al. (“Saito”). Claims 4-6, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oprescu in view of Saito.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

According to embodiments of the present invention, a plurality of computers are provided, each having a power requirement, where the computers are coupled to a power supply. A power monitor and a power controller are also provided. Referring to claim 1, when an additional computer (i.e., one other than the “plurality of computers”) makes a request for power, the power controller can perform several tasks:

1. determine whether the new total power requirement exceeds the known power capacity of the power supply;
2. cause the power supply to reduce the power supplied by the power supply to each computer of the plurality of computers; and
3. provide the additional computer with less power than indicated in the request for power.

The Office Action places primary importance on the Oprescu reference. Oprescu does not describe a power supply in accordance with claim 1. Oprescu describes a serial

interconnection bus 12 (see Fig. 1). This bus 12 includes a data line 28 and a power line 30. In the single personal computer environment, several of the devices coupled to the bus are separately plugged into a wall socket (see power input cables 34). Three tables are maintained: a power requirements table 54, a power output capability table 56, and a device status table (see Fig. 2). The first table (54) stores “the identity of each device, and its power draw requirements for each of a number of possible operational states” (Col. 5, lines 56-58). The second table “maintains information on the amount of power the device is capable of supplying to the data bus, in each of its possible operational states.” (Col. 6, lines 41-43). The third table “maintains information on the actual operational state of each device connected to the bus.” (Col. 6, lines 60-62). With these tables, a power usage request is sent over bus 12 from devices connected to the bus. A power manager looks at the tables to determine, what the surplus power is being supplied by the devices connected to the bus and whether that surplus is sufficient for the requested operating state of the device making the power usage request (see, generally, Cols. 7-8).

Claim 1 for example recites a plurality of computers and a power supply to supply power to the plurality of computers. Oprescu deals with the components in the computer and not the power supply for the computer. At Col. 4, lines 35-37, Oprescu states, “[b]us 12 may interconnect the components of a single computer system or may interconnect several separate computers, such as a network of computers.” This statement simply states that the components couple to the bus 12 may reside in one or more computers, but does not refer at all to the power supply for the computers, a device separated from the bus 12. In discussing, Oprescu, the Office

Action focuses on the issued claims, but such claims are read in light of the specification, which does not describe a power controller to control a power supply in accordance with the claims. Oprescu deals solely with components that operate in a computer system that may be able to generate surplus wattage to power other components.

The Morris and Saito references fail to make up for the deficiencies of the Oprescu reference. Morris is in the completely different art of gain control from audio devices. There is no gain control in computers (or even the peripheral components of Oprescu). Accordingly, there is absolutely no teaching or suggestion to combine Oprescu and Morris in the manner suggested by the Office Action without looking to Applicants' specification. Such is impermissible in a § 103(a) rejection. Saito refers to supplying power to appliances. At Col. 10, line 50 to Col. 11, line 18, Saito refers to whether an air-conditioner can operate with less power than requested. Nonetheless, Saito fails to describe the other features of the claims as referred to above.

Since features of each of the pending claims are not taught or suggested by the cited references, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 10-11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

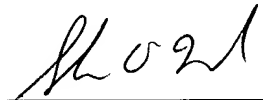
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,

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